

# Falcon Focus

A Falcon District Neighborhood Watch Newsletter from the Crime Prevention Unit of the Mesa Police Department

Volume 1, Issue 3

Chief Jan Strauss

October 2001

## GAIN Kick-Off 2001

Getting Arizona Involved In Neighborhoods

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual GAIN kick-off has come and gone and everyone that attended this year's event "Passport To Safety" had a lot to see and do. The event began with a rally and City Council member Dennis Kavanaugh spoke to the attending Block Captains. Mr. Kavanaugh stated, "This city is committed to building strong partnerships throughout the Mesa community". Chief Jan Strauss thanked the Neighborhood Watch Captains and stated, "There is no way for the police to do their job without the help and support of Mesa City Citizens". Lindy Marino, the GAIN Coordinator thanked everyone for attending especially in light of the recent tragedy in New York and the Pentagon.

Over 1200 invitations were sent out to the Neighborhood Watch leaders. 521 R.S.V.P.'s were returned for the Kick-off event. 358 Captain's, Co-Captain's, and Asst. Captain's actually attended the Gain Kick-off. Out of the 358 attending, 115 were from the Falcon district.

This event provided an opportunity for me to finally put faces with names and have a chance to learn a little more about what the needs are in your Neighborhood Watch Communities. The event also allowed the opportunity for Block Captains to network and make contacts with other Block Captains.

Remember, the purpose of the kick-off is to prepare the Block Leaders to have a GAIN party. Last year, Mesa had over 260 registered block watch parties and even though weather conditions hindered a few, majority of the block watch groups held their get-togethers and had a great time. This year our goal is to have 300 parties in Mesa, with over 20,000 participants! Only with your help will we be able to reach those numbers and make people aware of their neighborhood issues, they will have the

opportunity to get to meet and know their neighbors better, and work together to improve the community and prevent crime from occurring. As always, if you host a GAIN 2001 party, it will count as one of your two annual required functions, even if the attendance is less than expected due to the 4-day school weekend. Your Gain registration form must have been in our office by October 1<sup>st</sup> to receive a specialty unit visit at your party; however, you may still register your party through our office up to October 12<sup>th</sup> and we will make every attempt to have a police officer visit your party. Registration forms are available from our office by calling 480-644-2300 or on-line at [www.ci.mesa.az.us/police](http://www.ci.mesa.az.us/police) then select G.A.I.N. from the list and you will be able to download a registration form.

If you have any questions about the GAIN event, please feel free to contact Jerry Quarles at 480-644-2539 or the GAIN coordinator Lindy Marino at 480-644-3921.

Would you like a copy of the Newsletter sent to you via e-mail? Provide me with your e-mail address and I will send you an electronic version of the Newsletter in word format so you can cut and paste the information directly into your neighborhood newsletters. You will still continue to receive a paper copy of the Newsletter in the mail.

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# Volunteers In Police Service (VIPS)



The mission of the Mesa Police Department **Volunteers In Police Service (VIPS)** program is to support members in providing police service and to promote community partnership.

## Qualifications:

Must be 18 years of age, be able to furnish a copy of your high school diploma or G.E.D. and birth certificate, have a valid driver's license or other I.D. and successfully pass an extensive background investigation, extensive interview and polygraph examination.

## Volunteer Opportunities:

Neighborhood Watch - Recruiting Specialist -Victim Assistance Crisis Intervention-Jail Booking Assistant - DUI Unit / DUI Van Assistant - Animal Control - Police Records Assistant - CID Assistant - Crime Analysis - Crime Lab Technician Assistant - I.D. Lab Assistant - Office Assistant - Safe Senior Program - Fleet / Facilities Assistant - Disabled Parking Enforcement - Command Van Assistant - Mesa Gang Intervention Project - Crime Free Multi-Housing Program Assistant

## Volunteer Benefits:

Experience the joy of helping others, Learning new skills "on the job," Explore career options, Build your resume, Network, Discover new interests and aspirations, Civic pride and Community involvement.

If you are interested in our volunteer program, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator Linda Bailey at 480-644-2073 or e-mail: linda\_bailey@ci.mesa.az.us

Visit our web site for additional information:

[www.ci.mesa.az.us](http://www.ci.mesa.az.us)

*Make A Difference...*

*Meet The Challenge...*

*Give The Gift Of Time...*

**VOLUNTEER!**

*Want to remove your Social Security Number  
from your Arizona Drivers License?*

Visit [servicearizona.com](http://servicearizona.com)

## What is ServiceArizona?

ServiceArizona is an easy way for Arizona residents to take care of Motor Vehicle Division business, any time of the day or night, from the comfort of their home or office.

## Why would I want to remove the Social Security Number?

To reduce the risks of being a victim of Fraud and Identity Theft.

## How much will it cost?

Duplicate Driver license or Identification Cards will cost you a state fee of \$4.00.

## Who can get a duplicate drivers license?

All eligible Arizona residents who currently have an Arizona Driver License or Identification Card with a digital photo on file can use ServiceArizona.

## Can I have a Drivers License and I.D. Card?

Arizona state law does not allow residents to have both a Driver License and an Identification Card. If you do have both, by applying for a duplicate Driver License, your Identification Card will be invalidated.

## What are the reasons for getting a duplicate?

There are five reasons for requesting a duplicate Driver License or Identification Card through ServiceArizona. These reasons are lost, stolen, or destroyed license, an address change, or to change the Driver License or Identification Card number when it is the social security number.

If you have additional questions, please contact the Motor Vehicle Division at one of the numbers listed below.

Phoenix (602) 255-0072

Tucson (520) 629-9808

Elsewhere in  
Arizona (800) 251-5866

If you are unable to update your Drivers License on-line, please visit one of the three East Valley Motor Vehicle Divisions at:

1840 S. Lewis, Mesa

7631 E. Main, Mesa

4123 E. Valley Auto Drive, Gilbert

# HALLOWEEN

## Safety Tips

To help ensure this Halloween is a safe and happy holiday for you and your children, here is a list of some things to be aware of.

### Costume Suggestions:

- Choose light or bright colored costumes and use light reflective tape.
- Children shouldn't wear a mask; it restricts vision. If a mask must be worn, cut large eyeholes. Make-up is much safer than a mask because it doesn't obstruct vision.
- Toy weapons, wands, brooms, etc. should be made of paper or cardboard; they are safer than plastic, wood or metal.
- Put the child's name, address and phone number on the inside of their costume in case of an accident or lost child.
- Children should wear comfortable shoes; poor-fitting shoes are uncomfortable and may cause a fall.
- Trick or Treat bags should not be too large; they can obscure vision or cause your child to trip.
- Make sure wigs and costumes are fire proof.

### To Trick or Treat Safely, Your Child Should:

- Eat a full meal prior to going out so he/she won't be tempted to eat treats before they can be properly checked out. Tell your children not to eat treats until you have checked them out.
- Plan your child's route and visit only homes in your neighborhood that are well lighted.
- Travel in a group or with an adult; never enter a home.
- Carry a flashlight or glow stick.
- Cross streets at corners, never from between two vehicles.
- When crossing a street, STOP and LOOK both ways before crossing streets and LISTEN.
- Walk on the sidewalk or facing traffic if there are no sidewalks.
- Watch for cars driving into or backing out of driveways.

### Treats -- Give Them A Safety Check:

- Check for holes or loose wrappers, pour powdered candy into a container and look for discoloration or lumps.
- Don't eat opened candy, fruit, etc., unless you know the person it came from.
- Wash fruit, then cut into bite-size pieces.
- Soft candy should also be cut up into pieces before eating.
- Homemade treats should not be eaten unless you are absolutely sure they came from a safe source.
- Some hospitals will x-ray treat bag contents. Check with your local hospital for additional information.
- If any problems arise, call the Mesa Police Department at (480) 644-2211.

### Tricks: Tell Your Children...

- Remember, Halloween is a good time for dangerous strangers, so be careful.
- Don't play pranks. Damaging other peoples' property is a crime.
- If your child is the victim of a crime (stolen candy, intimidation, threats, etc.) either talk to the suspect's parents, or call the police if you wish to prosecute.

### Safety Around Home:

- Do not light candles around the walkways. If you would like luminaries or to light a jack-o-lantern, use a battery operated light source or glow stick.
- Keep walkways unobstructed and well lit.
- Don't let anyone you don't know into your home.

### Safe Alternatives:

- Trick or Treat in a local shopping mall.
- Attend community-sponsored events. Watch newspapers for additional information.
- Host a family party.
- Join your neighbors for a theme block party.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## G.A.I.N. 2001

GETTING ARIZONA INVOLVED IN NEIGHBORHOODS

SATURDAY OCTOBER 20<sup>TH</sup> 2001 4-9 PM

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH EVENTS AND PARTIES HELD  
THROUGHOUT MESA.

## BLOCK LEADERS OPEN HOUSE

DECEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup> 2001

LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED

I WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS, PROVIDE PARTY  
IDEAS AND HAVE BROCHURES TO RESTOCK YOUR SUPPLIES.

## CLUB DRUGS

Methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA)

Slang or Street Names: Ecstasy, XTC, X, Adam, Clarity and Lover's Speed. The stimulant effects of MDMA, which enable users to dance for extended periods, may also lead to dehydration, hypertension, and heart or kidney failure. MDMA can produce a significant increase in heart rate, blood pressure and a sense of alertness like that associated with amphetamine use. MDMA is taken orally, usually in a tablet or a capsule. Then effects last approximately 3 –6 hours, though confusion, depression, sleep problems, anxiety, and paranoia have been reported to occur even weeks after the drug is taken. MDMA is neurotoxic. Chronic use of MDMA was found to produce long – lasting, perhaps permanent damage to the neurons that release serotonin, and consequent memory impairment. Serotonin is a critical neurochemical that regulates mood, emotion, learning, memory, sleep, and pain.

**[www.azsexoffender.org](http://www.azsexoffender.org)**

The Arizona Department of Public Safety Sex Offender Info Center provides information about registered sex offenders released after Jan. 1, 1996. The website lists offenders by ZIP code or by NAME, and there is a new mapping feature that allows users to enter any address and see where offenders live in relation to the spot. The map will also plot schools and day care centers. The map is a valuable asset which allows parents to plot a route for their child to school or a friends house. The site shows the offender's photo, name, specific address and a summary of the offense.

## New & Reactivated Watch Groups

4800 - 4900 E. Hobart	Frank & Carmen Acosta	Reactivated
1400 S. Cochise	Denise Young	Reactivated
1600 - 1700 E. McLellan	Melinda & Mike Trego	Reactivated
"	Trina Modesitt	
2600 - 2700 E. Kenwood	Patricia Woodrum	New
1400 S. Creston	Mary Ann Hogle	Reactivated
1200 - 1300 E. Downing	Catherine & Lane Hilton	Reactivated
1800 - 1900 E. Glencove	Therese Kestner	Reactivated
"	Mona Hawkins	
1400 - 1500 E. Ivyglen	Wendy Evans	Reactivated
2200 - 2300 E. Jacaranda	Peggy Danielson	Reactivated
2600 - 2700 E. Juanita	Patricia Keinhans	Reactivated
"	Kathy & Keith Roed	
2200 - 2300 E. June	Sarah & Michael Donahue	Reactivated
1300 E. Marilyn	Michelle & Dale Green	Reactivated
"	Tara & Wilson Emery	
2500 - 2600 N. Stapley	Kathy McCain	Reactivated

I want to thank each and every one of these Block Captains for all the time and effort they have put into the reactivation of / or starting of a Neighborhood Watch in their area. It takes sincere dedication and strong commitment to challenge your neighborhood and community in the fight against crime. Keep up the good work.

## CAN WE TALK?



Phone Friend, a free bilingual service sponsored by the Association for Supportive Child Care, provides a safe and friendly voice for children 5 -18 who are bored, lonely, scared or needs help with homework. The trained staff members at the other end of the phone are happy to talk with children who are usually home alone providing games, stories, friendship and problem solving suggestions. The Phone Friend Program emphasizes building confidence and encourages activities that promote self-sufficiency. This service is available during weekday mornings 7:00 – 8:30 am and evenings 2:30 – 6:30 pm.

Funding for Phone Friend comes in part from the Child Abuse Prevention License Plate Program. Phone Friend also goes out in the community to "teach kids how to answer the phone and door when they are alone, and how to get home from school safely."

**602-253-9099**

## NEVER, NEVER, NEVER **SHAKE** A BABY!

Even if you're frustrated or angry, Never Shake your Baby! Shaking a baby, even in play, can cause brain damage, blindness, and death. Reduce the frustration by taking a deep breath and let it out slowly, take a break, ask someone for help, or find an activity that will entertain the baby. If you would like addition information, please call HOPE (Healthy Options for Parents through Education). **480-407-2636**

# BIKE RODEO



The Mesa Police Department is committed to bicycle safety and education. Bicycle rodeos are one way to educate children on the importance of bicycle safety.

## *What do you do at a Bike Rodeo?*

At the beginning of the rodeo all bicycles are checked for safety and all riders must have a bicycle helmet. If a child does not have a helmet one will be provided for the rodeo. Bike rodeo participants are then put through various scenarios. These scenarios are typical situations that they may encounter while riding their bicycle. These scenarios help the child learn bicycle safety skills and can demonstrate weaknesses that officers and parents can help the child improve.

## *Organizing a Bike Rodeo*

We will be happy to assist you in putting on a bike rodeo. We only ask that the following criteria be met:

- Request must be made at least 2 weeks in advance
- Any organized group with at least 10 participants (no maximum)
- A place to set up a road course (parking lot, basketball court, etc.)
- At least 4 volunteers
- Participants must have a bike and helmet

For more information or to make arrangements for a bike rodeo contact SGT. Holappa with the Falcon Bike Unit at 480-644-3933

### **FRAUD ALERT HOTLINE 480-644-2345**

Call the Mesa Police Department Fraud Alert Hotline to learn about the latest fraud schemes and con games, particularly those that target senior citizens.

YOU MAY BE A TARGET – DON'T BE A VICTIM



Sal-SAAAAH (Easy and Delicious!)

One taste and you'll be ready to grab a partner and DANCE the salsa!

Put on South of the Border music.

Clench rose in teeth.

Dance around kitchen gathering ingredients.

Throw in while Cuisinart is running:

**1 clove GARLIC**

add & process:

**4 GREEN ONIONS**

Add & process:

**14-16 oz can TOMATOES**

**4 oz can GREEN CHILES (mild)**

**3 shakes TOBACCO**

**Salt & Pepper to taste**

(The salt brings out the flavors)



**Yell Ole' & you're done!**

Submitted by Kay Murphy Rancho De Arboleda

## **ARTS & CRAFTS**

### **Halloween Surprise Tubes**

#### **Materials Needed:**

- Toilet paper roll
- Halloween printed fabric
- Ribbon
- Glue
- Treats (see Suggestions below)



#### **Instructions:**

Cut a piece of fabric big enough to cover the toilet paper roll and have a couple of inches hanging over each end of the tube. Wrap the Halloween fabric around the toilet paper roll and glue in place. Tie (in a bow) one overhung end of the fabric with 3 - 4 different colored ribbons. Orange and black ribbon works well for the Halloween theme. Fill the fabric-covered tube with toys, trinkets, candy, and confetti. Tie the open end up with the ribbons. It should look like a tootsie-roll with ribbon at each end. Use this great Halloween give-a-way for school parties, a neighborhood block party or trick-or-treaters. This can be a fun project to get the kids involved also. I save my toilet paper tubes all year!



# Meet Your Police Department!



Each newsletter will feature different units of the Mesa Police Department.

## Police Chief



After a nationwide search, the Mesa City Council confirmed the selection of Janice Strauss as Mesa's new police chief in October 1998. She became the first female police chief in the City's 120-year history, and oversees the department's 1,000 sworn and civilian employees.

Chief Strauss joined the Mesa Police Department in 1978 as a patrol officer and was promoted to detective in 1979. She was promoted to sergeant in 1984 and lieutenant in 1989 and to commander in 1992.

By 1994, she was named an assistant chief in charge of the Special Operations Bureau and managed the implementation of the Mesa Police Center Against Family Violence, the city's first Citizen Police Academy, and co-chaired the department's organizational effectiveness team. She is a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police and former executive director of the Arizona Association of Chiefs of Police. In 1999, Chief Strauss received the Alumni Achievement Award from Arizona State University.

Chief Strauss has a Bachelor of Science degree in sociology from Arizona State University and received a master's degree in public administration in 1998.

Our mission is to improve the quality of life in Mesa by working together with all citizens to preserve life, maintain human rights, protect property and promote public safety.

Protecting and improving the quality of life for Mesa's citizens is achieved by the more than 1,000 employees at the Mesa Police Department.

Our mailing address is:

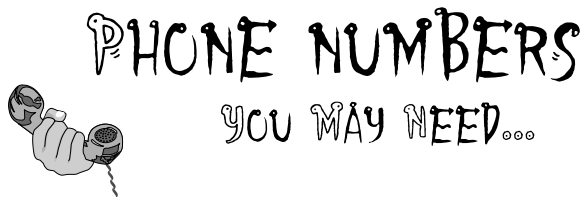
Mesa Police Department  
130 North Robson Street  
Mesa Arizona 85201-6697

## SWAT

Mesa Police Department Special Weapons and Tactics Team was formed in 1975 at the direction of the Chief. The SWAT team began with only five members and was originally formed as an anti-sniper team. The Team quickly realized that there was much more to tactics than just being an anti-sniper team and began training for other high-risk situations. The group of highly trained and well-equipped Officers has evolved over the years into a complete Tactical Unit. The Tactical Unit, which is overseen by Lt. Bob Gervasi, now includes the SWAT Team, Hostage Negotiators, the Hazardous Device Team and the K-9 Unit. The current SWAT Team is comprised of three Team Leaders, four Assistant Team Leaders, and 28 Team Members. There are eight Hostage Negotiators, which includes a Team Leader, an Assistant Team Leader, and six team members. The Hazardous Device Team includes a Team Leader, an Assistant Team Leader, and five Bomb Technicians.

The Tactical Team responds to the following situations: Barricaded Suspects, Hostage Rescue Missions, Hazardous Warrant Service, Counter Sniper Situations, Dignitary Protection, or any other mission designated by the Chief of Police.

The Team trains 16 hours a month. The Counter Sniper Teams shoot an additional four hours a week. The SWAT Team is a part-time unit with one full time squad and Team members may be assigned from any Bureau, Division, or Detail within the Mesa Police Department. The Team uses the following criteria for selection of SWAT officers. The member will: "Be a Sworn Police Officer with the City of Mesa", off probation, volunteer his or her services, be recommended by their supervisor, pass physical, shooting, and oral board tests, pass a psychological exam, pass the Basic SWAT School, and receive certification from the SWAT Team.



## Mesa Police Department

Emergency.....	9-1-1
Non-Emergency.....	644-2211
(Suspicious Activity)	
General Information.....	644-2324
Anonymous Reporting.....	644-2000
Traffic Unit.....	644-3533
(Motor Officers)	
Falcon Substation.....	644-2598
(Speed Radar Trailer)	

## City Of Mesa

Graffiti Paintout.....	644-3083
Alarm Coordinator.....	644-2699
Speed Hump Information.....	644-2160
Radar Gun Checkout.....	644-2160
Neighborhood Outreach.....	644-4067
Street Lights.....	644-2160
Street Barricades.....	644-2160
Mesa Park Rangers.....	644-2942
After 5pm and weekends.....	644-2262
Neighborhood Clean ups.....	644-2744
Fire Prevention.....	644-2622
Code Compliance.....	644-2061

## Hotlines

Gang Hotline (644-GANG) .....	644-4264
Narcotics Hotline.....	602-440-5081
Stolen Vehicle/Chop Shop Hotline.....	644-2880
Street Light Hotline.....	644-3191
Slum Lord Hotline.....	602-373-SLUM
Fraud Alert Hotline.....	644-2345

## Watch Your Car Program Registration

1-888-668-4433

## Reminders:

- The Neighborhood Watch Program requires **2 meetings or events** per calendar year, **50% participation** of occupied homes at each event and at least 1 **Block Captain**.
- If you need to order barricades for your block party/meeting, please call the City of Mesa Transportation Division at 644-2160. The Mesa Police Department does not provide barricades.
- Please don't forget to send in your attendance sheets immediately following your meeting/party. It is imperative that we have them to keep our records in order and to document that you have met the requirements of the Neighborhood Watch program. Attendance sheets can be faxed to 480-644-2800. Envelopes can be provided by calling 644-2300.
- If you require pamphlets/brochures for a meeting, please contact us at least three weeks prior to your meeting. We now have many brochures in Spanish and our literature is also available online.  
[www.ci.mesa.az.us/police/commrel.htm](http://www.ci.mesa.az.us/police/commrel.htm).
- If there are any changes to your Neighborhood Watch group we need to know. This includes a merging with other groups, add-on or removal of additional streets, a new captain or co-captain, and any other changes that would affect your group.
- To request a visit from the Fire Department for your block party/event, please call 644-3882 and speak with Fire Prevention to make arrangements.
- To request a visit from the Beat Officer, Sgt., Bike Squad or Community Action Team, you need to call me at 644-2539 at least three weeks prior to your event. There are no guarantees that a Police Unit will visit your event. They are still subject to calls for service, but will make every attempt to stop by for a visit.
- What goes up must come down! **DISCHARGE** of a firearm within **OR INTO** the limits of any municipality is a class 6 **FELONY**.

### *Just the Facts!*

Total Mesa Neighborhood Watches.....	660
Falcon District.....	215
Superstition District.....	246
Dobson District.....	99
Central District.....	100
Total Captains & Assistants.....	1,212
Falcon Captains & Assistants.....	355



*HAPPY HALLOWEEN*

## FUND - Raising Scams Surface

Groups, seeking to exploit the community's desire to support the police or fire departments victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks often use terminology in their titles that are similar to Police or Fire Fighters Associations. As an incentive for your donation they are offering items such as "Official Police or Fire Decals", identification cards, and window stickers for automobiles.

It is important to do your homework when it comes to giving donations not only for this tragedy, but also for any organization that may be soliciting donations. There are many legitimate charities and organizations and they will provide you with information about their organization upon request.

Don't be afraid to ask questions. You will offend them or hurt their feelings if you do. Be wary of any reluctance to answer questions. Ask for the charity's full name, address, and phone number.

Do not give cash. Always make contributions by check payable to the charity, not the individual collecting the donation.

Ask if the charity is registered with the Secretary of State's Office. You can find those who are registered at:

**[www.sos.state.az.us](http://www.sos.state.az.us)**

Do not be pressured into giving money on the spot or allowing someone to come to your home for a pick-up of the contribution.

Consumers who feel they have been victimized should call the Secretary of State's Office at (602) 542-6187 or 1-800-458-5842. Complaints also may be made to the Attorney General's Consumer Information and Complaint Division at (602) 542-5763.

**Prevention is everywhere.  
Lets work together to fight  
CRIME!**

Crime Prevention Specialist Jerry Quarles  
Falcon District Neighborhood Watch Coordinator  
Office: 480-644-2539

Community Relations Unit:  
480-644-2300  
Fax: 480-644-2800

Mesa City Home Page:  
[www.ci.mesa.az.us](http://www.ci.mesa.az.us)